

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR SENIORS

AT HOME

- Install good locks on doors and windows. Use them! Never open your door automatically. Install and use a peephole.
- Do not hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a neighbor or friend.
- Ask for photo identification from services or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify.
- Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well – lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Leave lights on when going out at night. Use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period.
- Notify neighbors and the police when going away on a trip. Cancel deliveries such as newspapers.
- Do not hesitate to report crime or suspicious activities.
- Keep your home well lit at night, inside and out; keep curtains closed.
- Join a Neighborhood Watch to look out for each other.
- Never give out information over the phone indicating you are alone or that you won't be home at a certain time.
- If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, DO NOT GO IN. Leave quietly and call 911.
- Consider a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire and medical emergencies.

WALKING

- If someone or something makes you uneasy, trust your instinct and leave.
- Go with friends or family, not alone.
- Report any crime or suspicious activity to law enforcement.
- Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Walk confidently.
- Stay away from buildings and doorways; walk in well-lighted areas.
- Have your key ready when approaching your front door.
- Don't carry large, bulky shoulder bags; carry only what you need.

WHILE SHOPPING

- Park near an entrance.
- Carry your purse very close to you; never leave your purse unattended.
- Don't carry credit cards you do not need or large amounts of cash.
- Use checks where possible.

IN YOUR CAR

- Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages.
- If your car breaks down, pull over to the right as far as possible, raise the hood, and wait **INSIDE** the car for help.
- Travel well-lit and busy streets. Plan your route.
- Don't leave your purse on the seat beside you; put it on the floor, where it is more difficult for someone to grab it.
- Lock bundles or bags in the trunk.
- When returning to your car, check the front and back seat before entering.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.

BANKING

- Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks.
- Never withdraw money from your bank accounts for anyone except yourself.
- You should store valuables in a Safe Deposit Box.
- Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true – a free vacation, sweepstakes prizes, cures for cancer, a low-risk, high-yield investment scheme.
- Never give your credit card, Social Security, or bank account number to anyone over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything – insurance policy, a sales agreement, a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.
- If you're suspicious, check it out with the police, the Better Business Bureau, or your local consumer protection office.

Adult Protective Services

APS@Indy.gov

317-327-5407

800-992-6978 Hotline

317-327-5404 Fax

